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ILLUSTORIES

**AUG.
NO. 47**

C.B.
in **2** COMPLETE
ILLUSTORIES

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

A
FULL-SIZE
52 page
MAG!

HERE
HE COMES
NOW! FINISH
HIM OFF FAST,
WILL YA. I'VE
GOT A
DATE!

TONIGHT,
I'M GOIN'
TO GIVE THE
FANS A SHOW!
BROPHY IS A
PUSHOVER.

MAYBE I WAS
WRONG ABOUT HIS
EYESIGHT! HE MUST
BE OKAY, IF THE
BOXING COMMISSION'S
DOCTOR WILL LET
HIM FIGHT.

**CHARLES
BIRO**

LEV GLEASON
PUBLICATIONS

**BROPHY IS FAST GOING BLIND! HE STAKED ALL ON THIS ONE LAST FIGHT! WILL HE RETAIN HIS EYESIGHT
LONG ENOUGH TO WIN THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGHT OF HIS LIFE? SEE INSIDE!**



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STREET

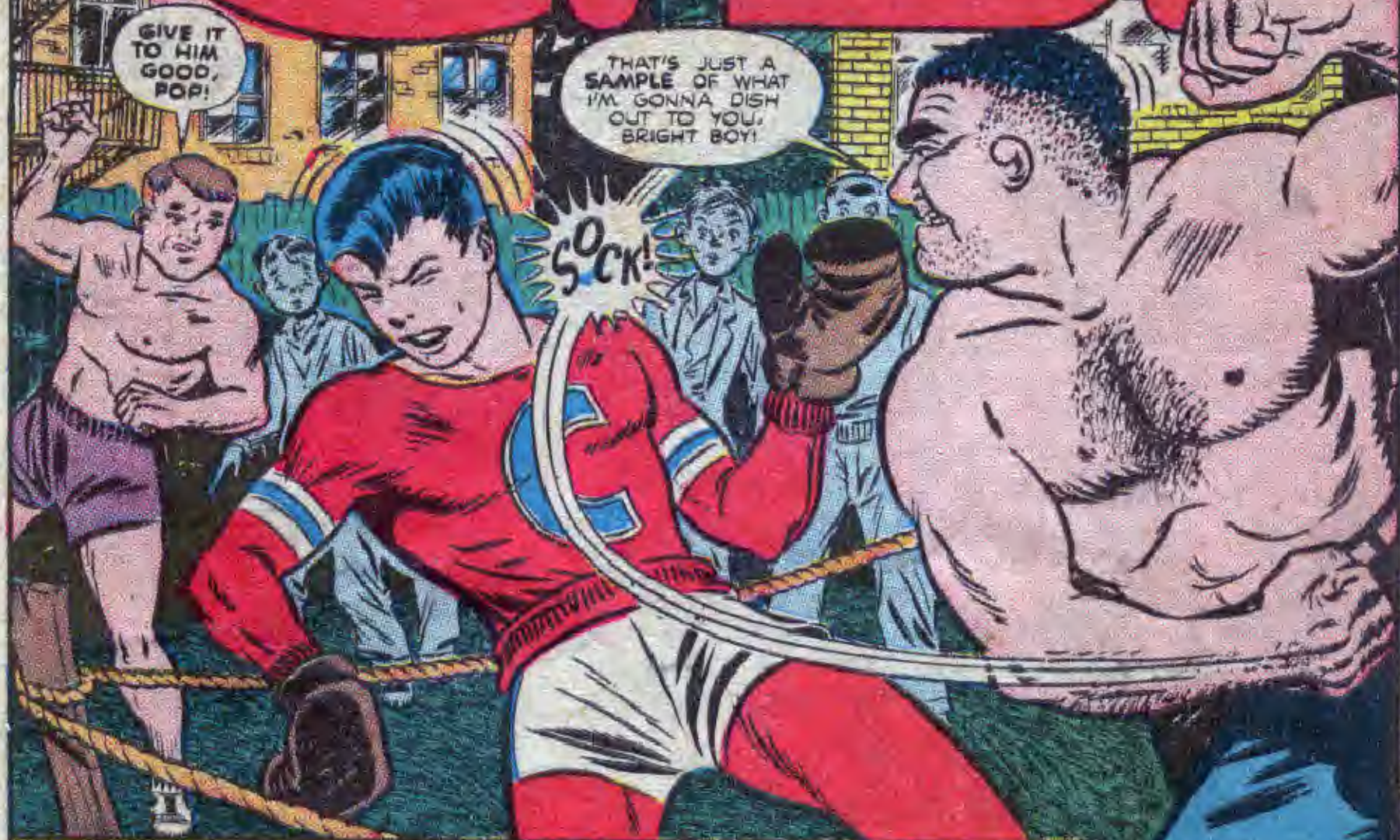
CITY ZONE STATE

(PLEASE PRINT)

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CLUB

STORY BY
CHARLES
BIRO



WHEN PROPERLY SUPERVISED, BOXING IS A CLEAN AND HEALTHY SPORT—ONLY A BOXER CAN KNOW THE THRILL OF THAT FIRST STEP THROUGH THE ROPES, AND THE THOUSAND VOICES THAT CHEER TO HIS UNHEARING EARS! AND NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN A BOXER THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WORD 'SPORTSMANSHIP'! THE RING'S HALL OF FAME IS STUDDED WITH DRAMATIC INCIDENTS THAT LAY CLAIM TO THIS FACT! THIS IS A TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY OF A SELF-SACRIFICING GLADIATOR, WHO, RIGHT OR WRONG, MADE HIS OWN INTERPRETATION OF SPORTSMANSHIP!

Charles Biro

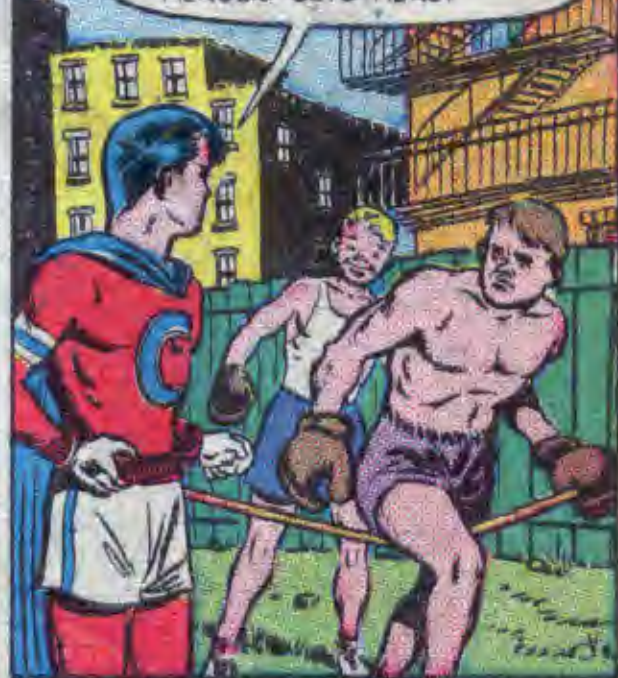
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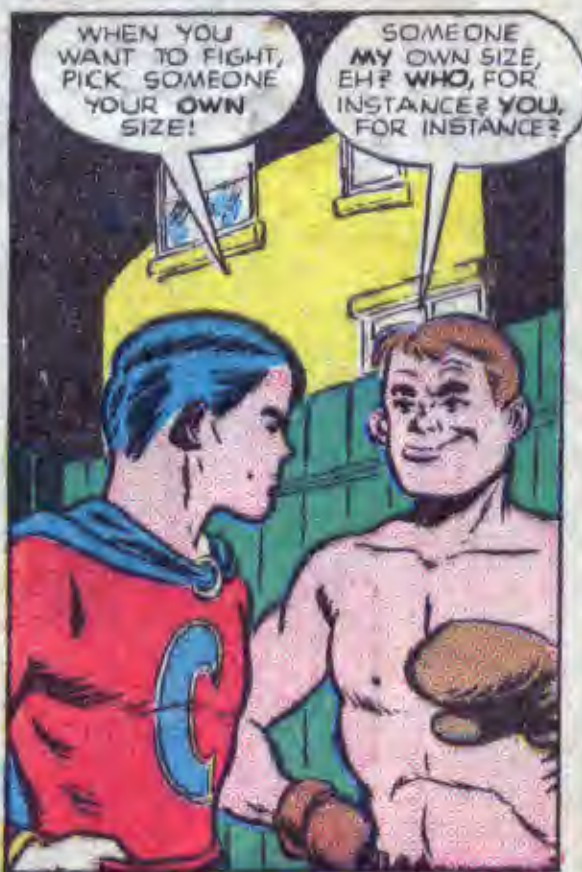
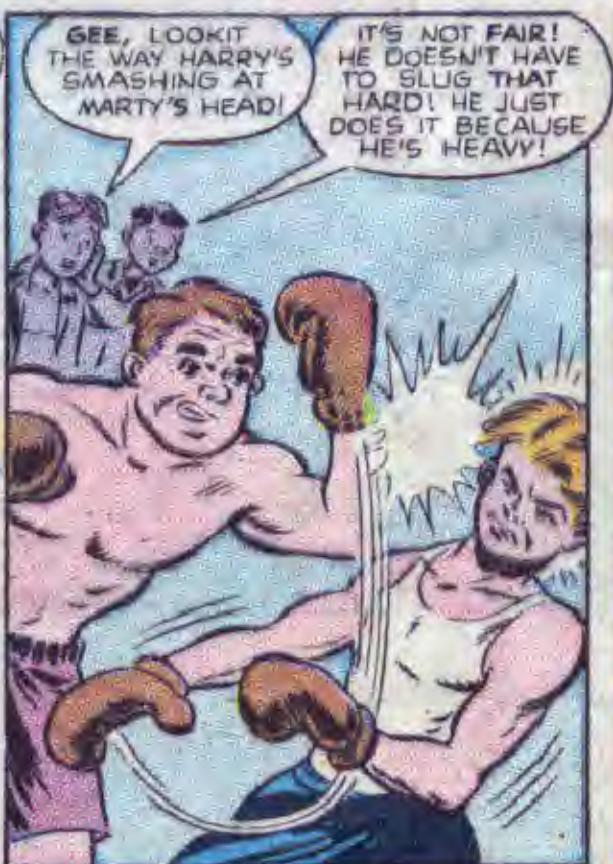
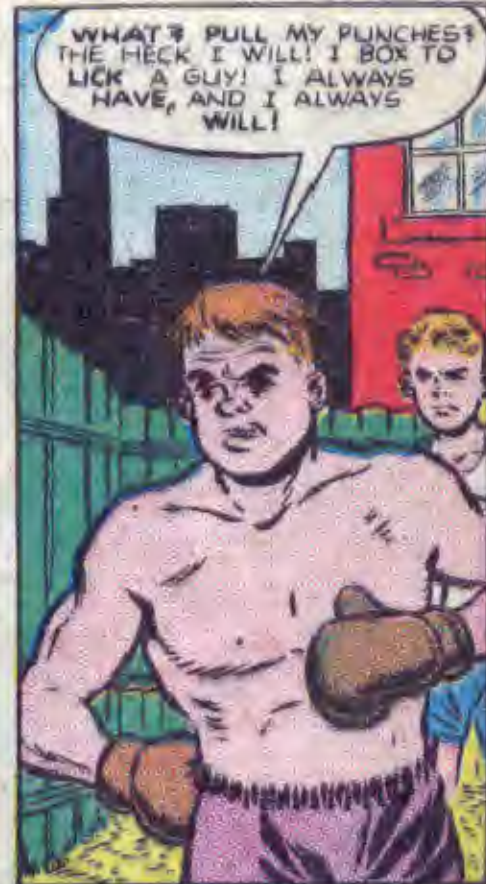


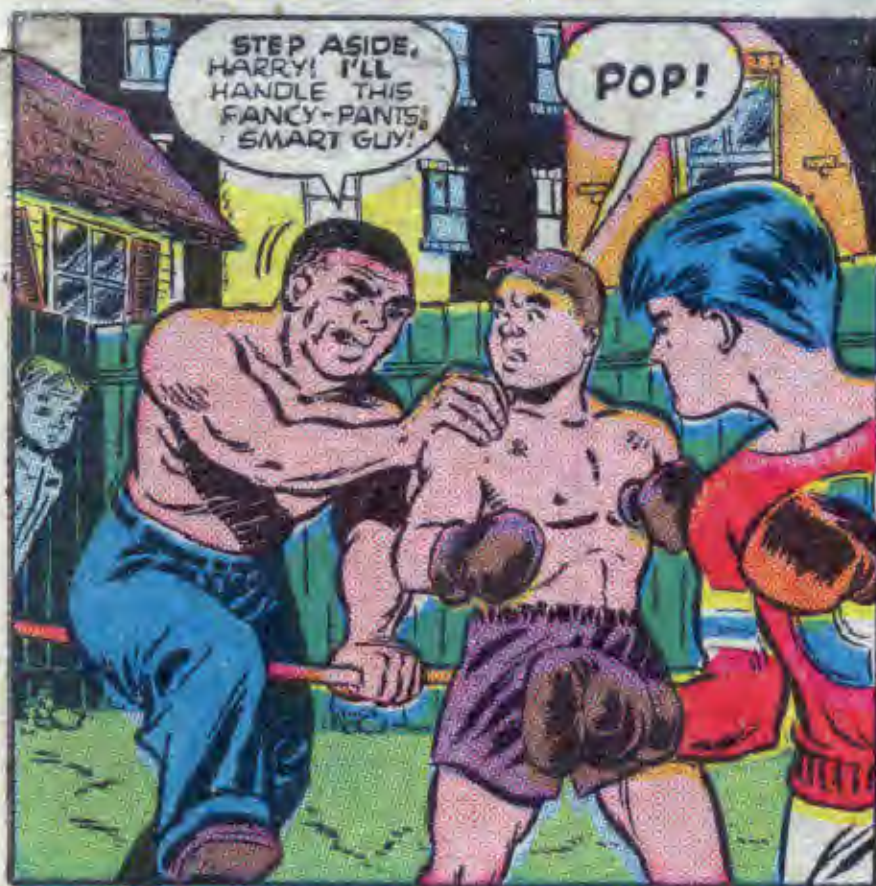
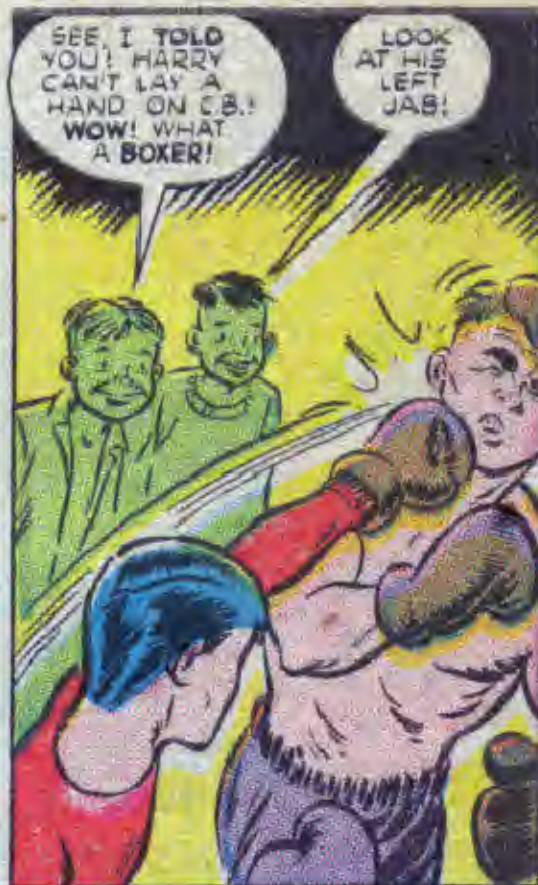
YOU'RE DOING FINE, DAVEY! TRY AND KEEP YOUR GUARD UP A LITTLE MORE! AND YOU BOBBY—USE THAT LEFT OF YOURS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET! SAVE YOUR RIGHT FOR YOUR SUNDAY PUNCH!

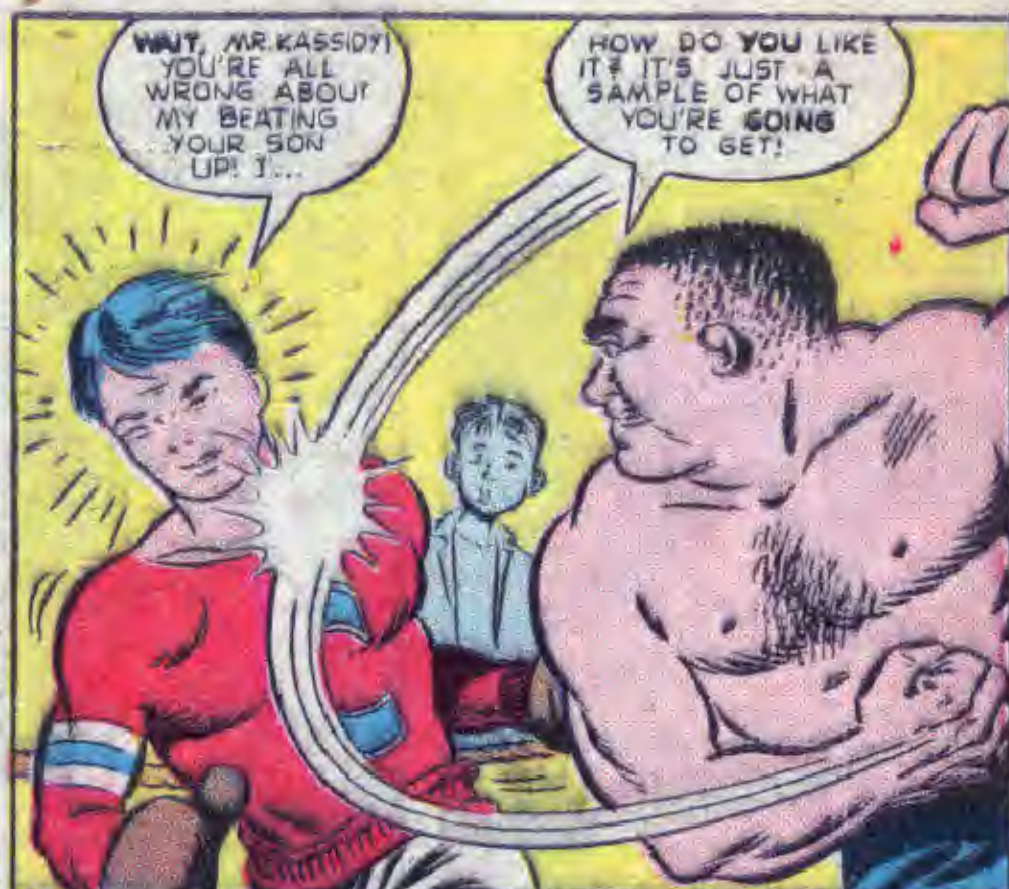


OKAY! YOU FELLOWS ARE NEXT! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TIME TO REFEREE ONE MORE BOUT BEFORE OFFICER HENSEN GETS HERE!



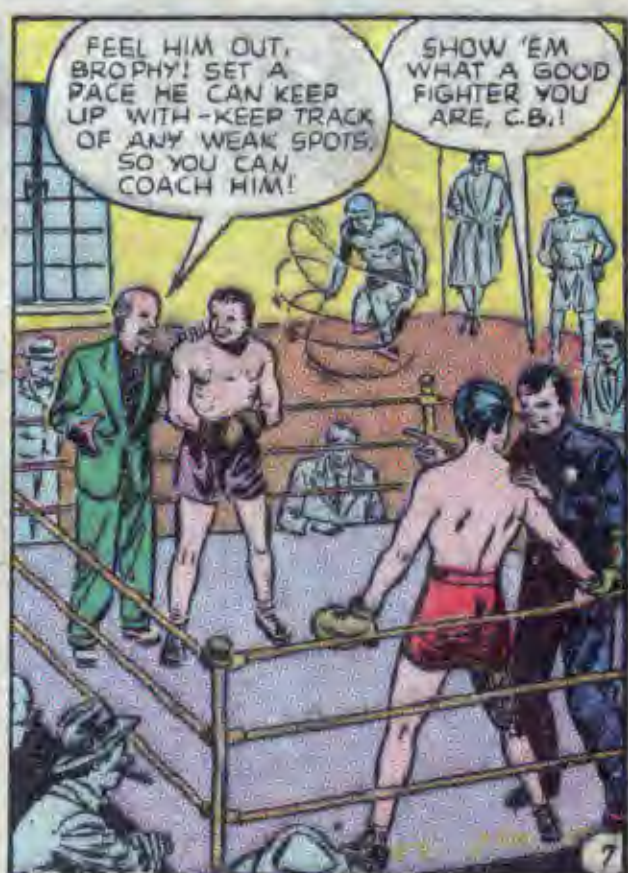


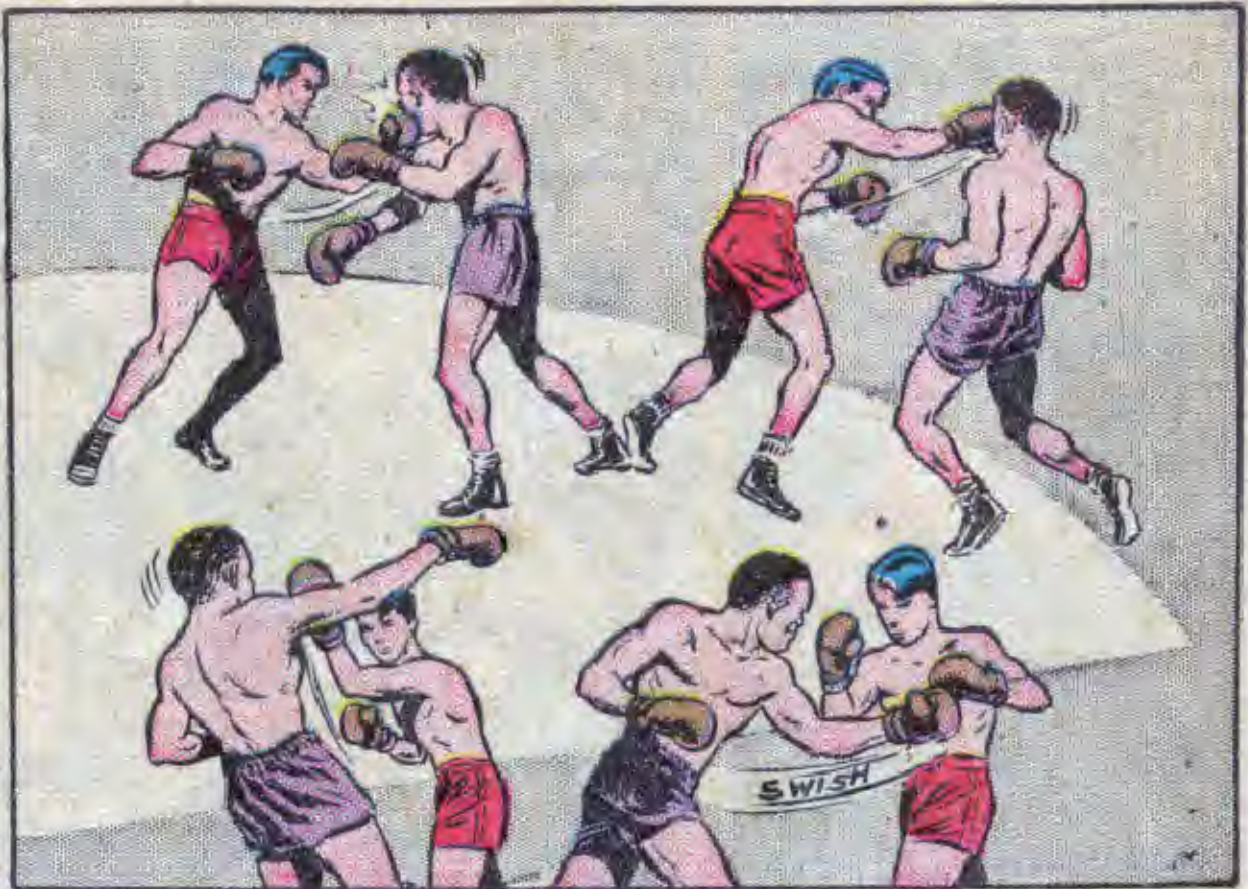
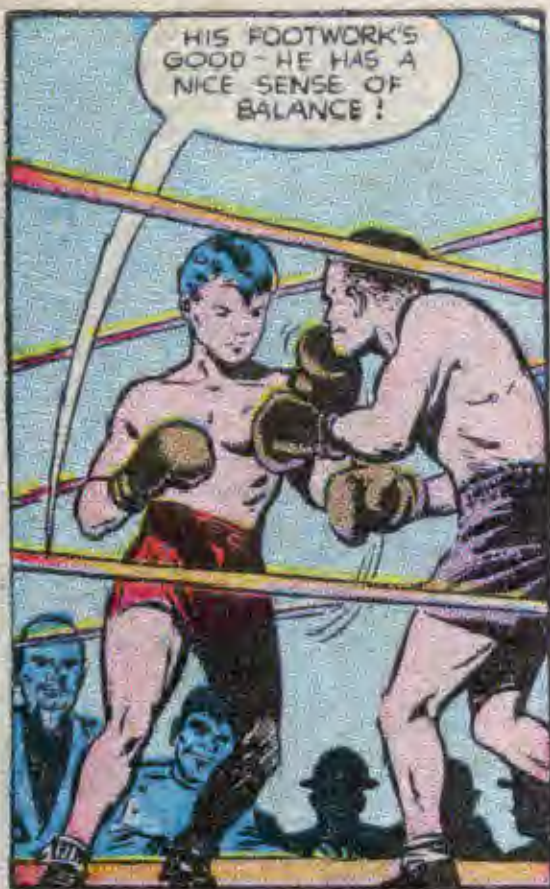


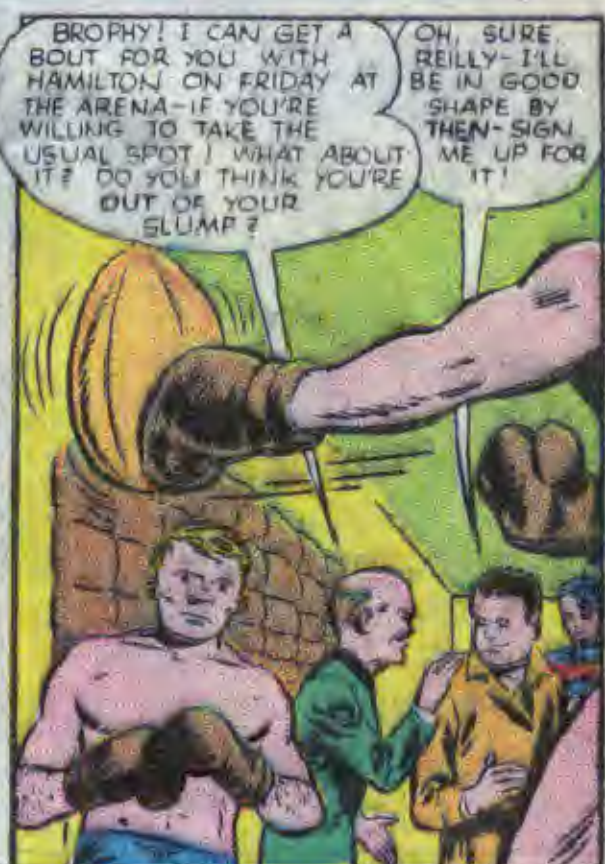


















THAT'S TOUGH NEWS, BROPHY—BUT IT'S GOOD THAT YOU FOUND OUT WHEN YOU DID! I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO BE SENSIBLE AND GIVE UP FIGHTING FOR A WHILE!

WAIT A MINUTE—TAKE IT EASY, C.B.—I JUST SAID THAT TO KEEP THE DOCTOR HAPPY! I'M STILL GONNA FIGHT ON FRIDAY—I HAVE TO!



YOU CAN'T! YOU MAY GO BLIND FOR LIFE! I'LL TELL THE BOXING COMMISSIONER! THEY WON'T LET YOU FIGHT!

NO, C.B., YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE YOU WON'T DO THAT! IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME! LET ME HAVE THIS ONE FIGHT, AND I PROMISE I'LL QUIT THE RING TILL I GET BETTER!

BUT YOU MAY WIND UP BLIND FOR LIFE! NO FIGHT IS WORTH THAT MUCH!

I MAY WIND UP BLIND, ANYHOW! IF I DO, I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY CENT I CAN GET—IT'S FOR MARY AND THE KIDS! I MUST FIGHT FRIDAY!



IF THE BOXING COMMISSION EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR CONDITION, THEY'D CALL THE FIGHT OFF! YOU KNOW THAT—AND THEY MAY BAR YOU FROM THE RING FOR LIFE!

I'LL WIN THAT FIGHT IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! JUST PROMISE YOU WON'T REPORT ME TO THE COMMISSIONER—YOU MUST PROMISE!



I DON'T WANT TO PROMISE—BUT YOU MAKE IT HARD FOR ME TO REFUSE! ALL RIGHT, BROPHY—I WON'T REPORT YOU!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME—I'LL MAKE OUT OKAY—YOU WAIT AND SEE—I'LL GIVE THE FANS A GOOD FIGHT!



WHAT CAN I DO? I PROMISED NOT TO TALK TO THE BOXING COMMISSIONER, OR HIS WIFE—BUT I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT REILLY! MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME FIGURE OUT SOMETHING!



I WAS WITH BROPHY AT THE OPTOMETRIST'S—HE'S NEARLY BLIND! I PROMISED NOT TO REPORT IT!

THE POOR GUY! NO WONDER HE LOOKED SO SLOPPY IN THE RING! I'D NEVER HAVE SCHEDULED HIM IF I'D KNOWN! HE'S BEEN SHREWD ABOUT COVERING UP!



IT'S TOO LATE TO CALL OFF THE BOUT—IF I DID THAT, BROPHY WOULD KNOW YOU'D COME TO ME! I CAN'T GO TO THE BOXING COMMISSIONER WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR PROMISE TO HIM! OH! I THINK I HAVE IT! LEAVE IT TO ME, C.B.!



I HEAR YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR ME, REILLY!

THAT'S RIGHT—COME IN AND SHUT THE DOOR!





HONEY, BRING ME OUR TIN BOX! I WANT TO COUNT OUR SAVINGS!

ALL RIGHT, DARLING—JUST A MINUTE!



OH, MARY, BE A GOOD GIRL AND COUNT IT FOR ME! UH—JUST TO SEE IF I COUNTED IT RIGHT THE LAST TIME!



900-AND 1,000-11-12... \$1,300, ALL TOGETHER! IS THAT WHAT YOU COUNTED?

YEP! AND HONEY, I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS \$1,300 BUCKS AND TURN IT INTO \$5,000! I'M GOING TO BET IT ALL ON MYSELF!



OH, NO! IT'S ALL WE HAVE—AND BESIDES, FIGHTERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO BET ON THEMSELVES!

I KNOW, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT! I'M RETIRING AFTER FRIDAY'S FIGHT! I'LL TELL THE COMMISSIONER AFTER THE FIGHT!



I WANT TO BET EVERYTHING WE HAVE ON IT—GIVE ME YOUR GOLD WATCH AND YOUR BRACELET! I'LL HOCK MY CUFFLINKS AND WATCH, TOO!

PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T, BILL! YOU NEVER DID BET ON A FIGHT BEFORE—DON'T START NOW!



I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE IT! IF I RETIRE, WE'LL NEED A GRUBSTAKE—AND THIS IS IT!

OH, BILL—YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE YOURSELF! DON'T DO IT! PLEASE, DON'T DO IT!



BROPHY, ARE YOU SURE YOU FEEL IN FORM TO FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT? I COULD ALWAYS GET SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE!

NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE! THIS WILL BE MY LAST FIGHT, REILLY—I'M RETIRING FROM THE RING AFTER I WIN TOMORROW! YEP, I'M GOING TO SIT BACK AND ENJOY LIFE FOR A WHILE—MAYBE OPEN A STORE!



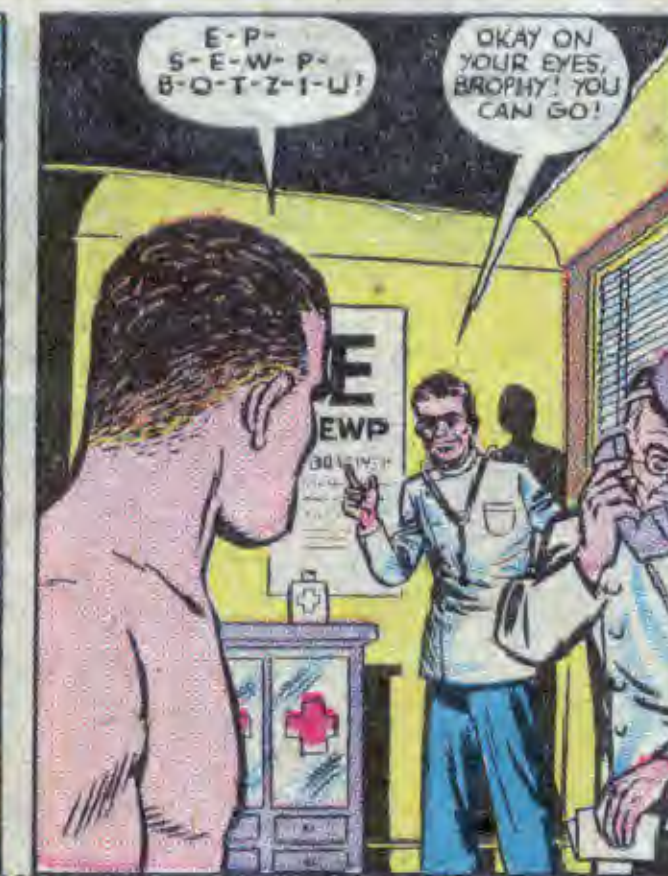
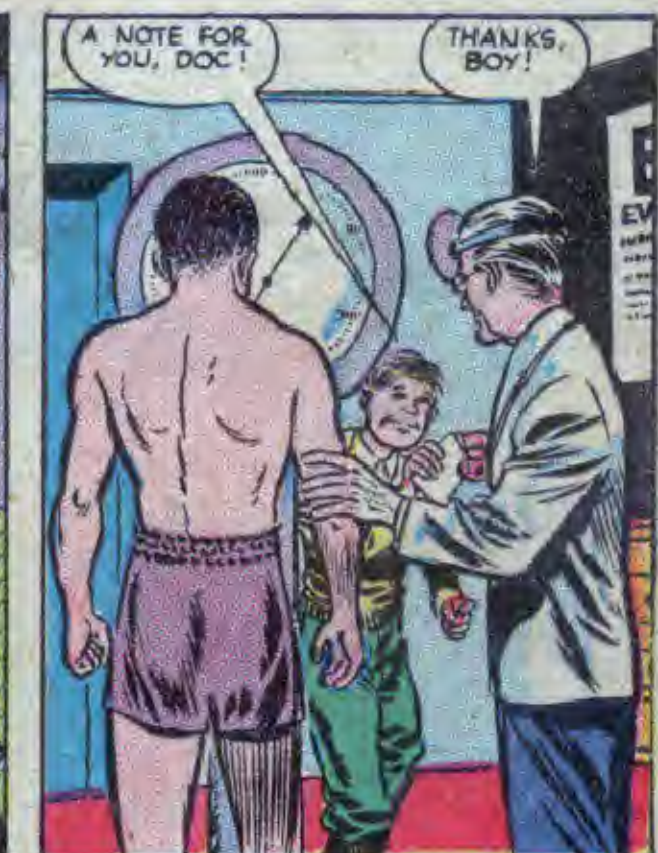
RETIRE? ON WHAT? THE MEASLY TEN PER CENT HE'S GETTIN' IS ONLY PEANUTS! WOW! I'LL BET THAT CRAZY DOPE HAS BET HIS WHOLE BANKROLL ON HIMSELF!

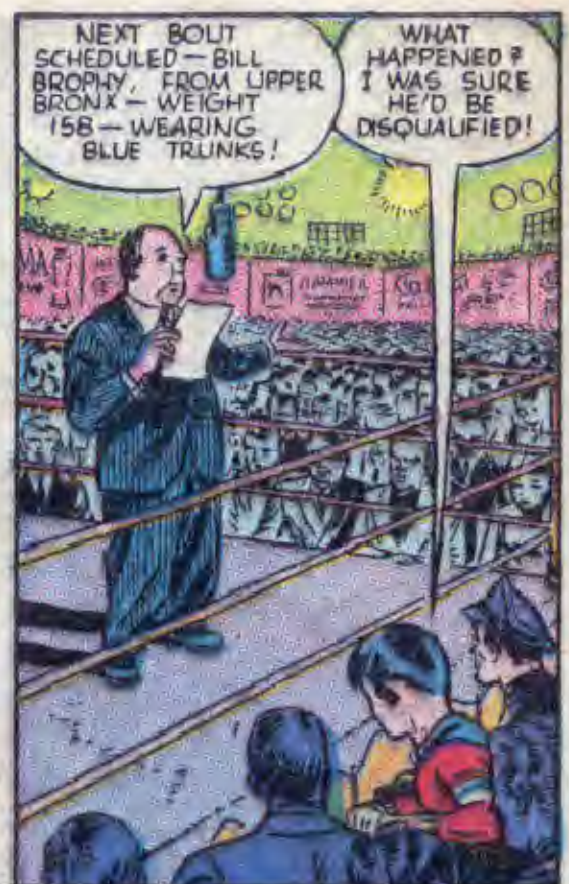


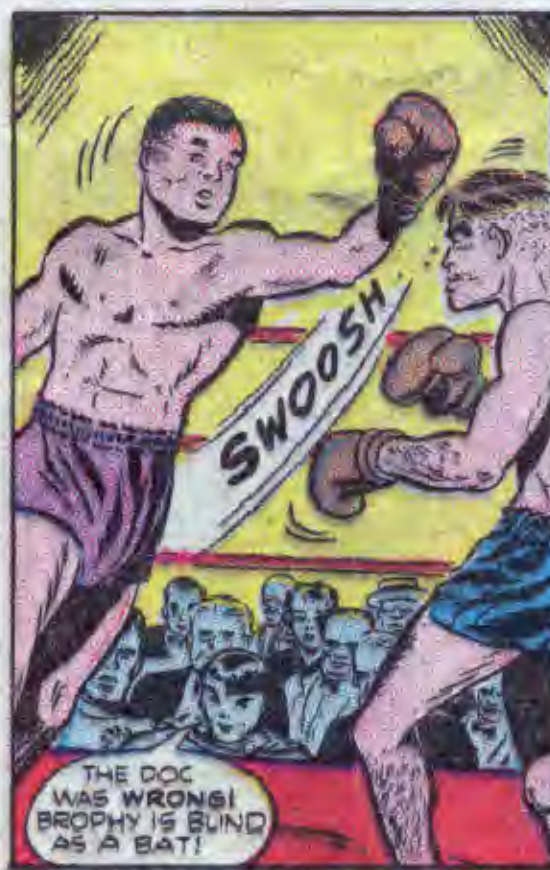
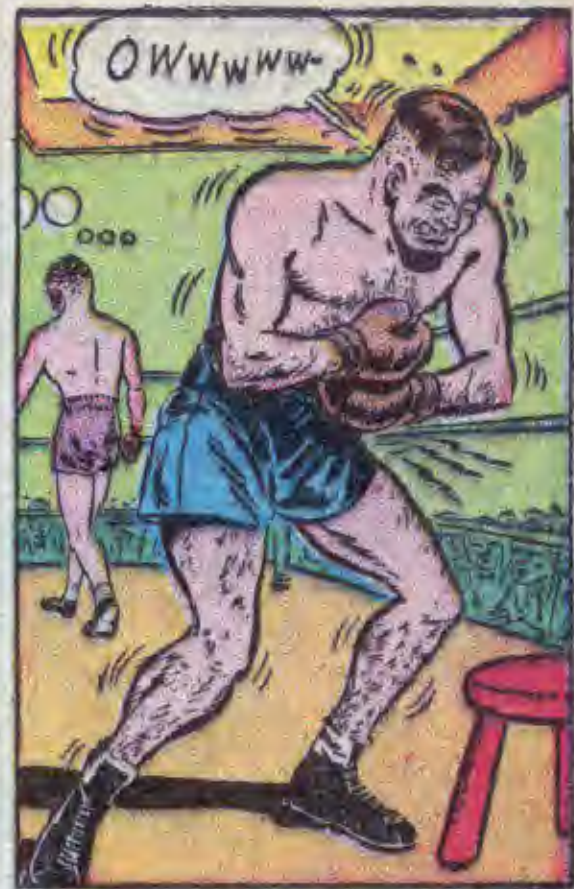
OF ALL THE SLAP-HAPPY THINGS TO DO! HE HASN'T A CHANCE TO WIN! HE'LL LOSE THE BOUT—AND EVERY CENT HE HAS BESIDES! I CAN'T PROVE IT, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT'S THE SET-UP—I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE BOYS—HEY, FELLERS, GATHER 'ROUND!

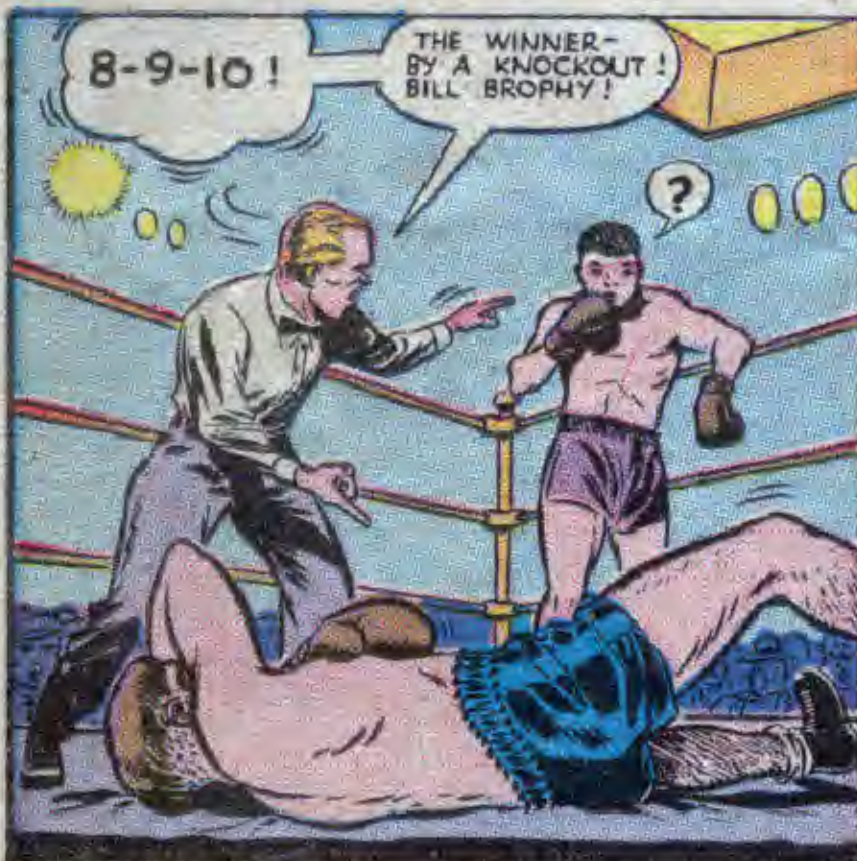
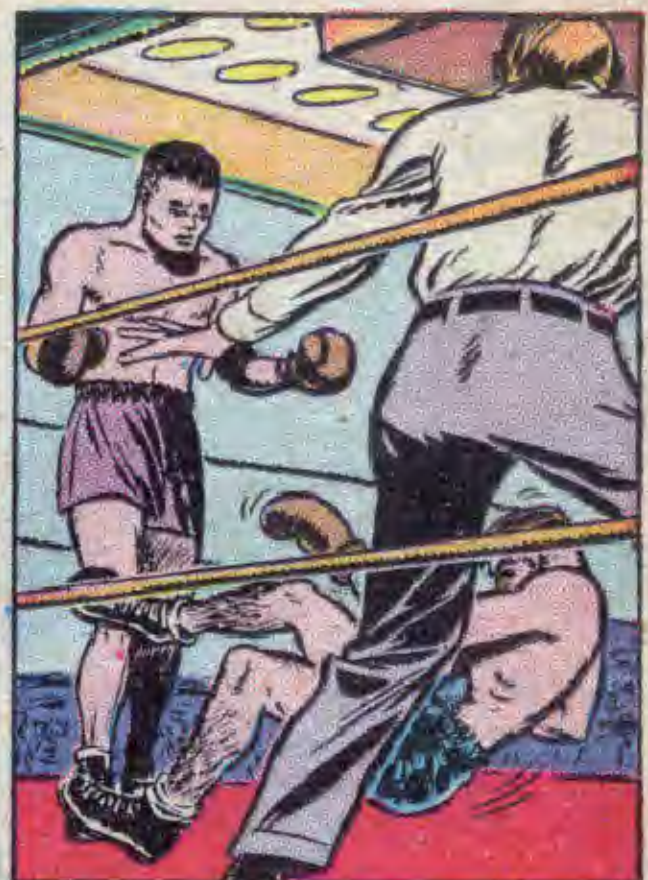
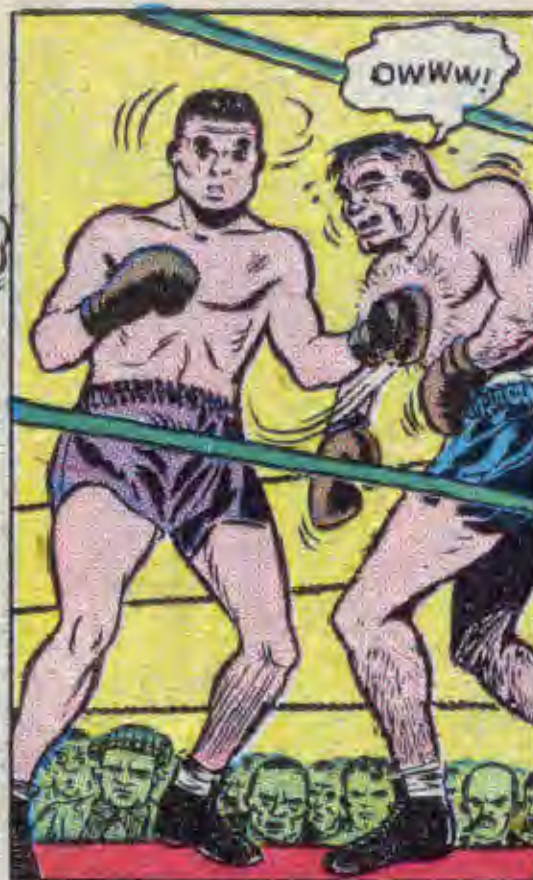
















"I WAS ASHAMED OF MY FACE

until Viderm made my dreams of a clearer skin come true in one short week"

(FROM A LETTER TO BETTY MEMPHIS SENT HER BY ETHEL JORDAN, DETROIT, MICH.)



If your face is broken out, if bad skin is making you miserable, here is how to stop worrying about pimples, blackheads and other externally caused skin troubles.

JUST FOLLOW SKIN DOCTOR'S SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

"I just want to be alone!" Is there anything more awful than the blues that come when your face is broken out and you feel like hiding away because of pimples, blackheads and similar externally caused skin troubles? I know how it feels from personal experience. And I can appreciate the wonderful, wonderful joy that Ethel S. Jordan felt when she found something that not only promised her relief—but gave it to her in just one short week!

When I was having my own skin troubles, I tried a good many cosmetics, ointments and whatnot that were recommended to me. I remember vividly how disappointed I felt each time, until I discovered the skin doctor's formula now known as the Double Viderm Treatment. I felt pretty wonderful when friends began to rave about my "movie-star skin." No more self-consciousness. No more having my friends feel sorry for me. The secret joy, again, of running my fingertips over a smoother, clearer skin.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life—dates, romance, popularity, social and business success—only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful

complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours—take my word for it!—no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.

What Makes "Bad Skin" Get That Way?

Medical science gives us the truth about how skin blemishes usually develop. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time "stretch" the pores and make them large enough to pocket dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. Often, the natural oils that lubricate your skin will harden in the pores and result in unsightly blemishes.

When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet proper attention with the Double Viderm Treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, unbeautiful skin that makes you want to hide your face.

The Double Viderm Treatment is a formula prescribed with amazing success by a dermatologist and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates your pores and acts as an antiseptic. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too—in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't. Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clearer, smoother complexion may come true in ten days or less.

Use your Double Viderm Treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept. D-1, New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both



jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. Then, if you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm Double Treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and thirty-one thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it!—the treatment must work for you, or it doesn't cost you a cent.



A screen star's face is her fortune. That's why she makes it her business to protect her complexion against pimples, blackheads and blemishes. Your face is no different. Give it the Double Viderm Treatment it needs and watch those skin blemishes go away.

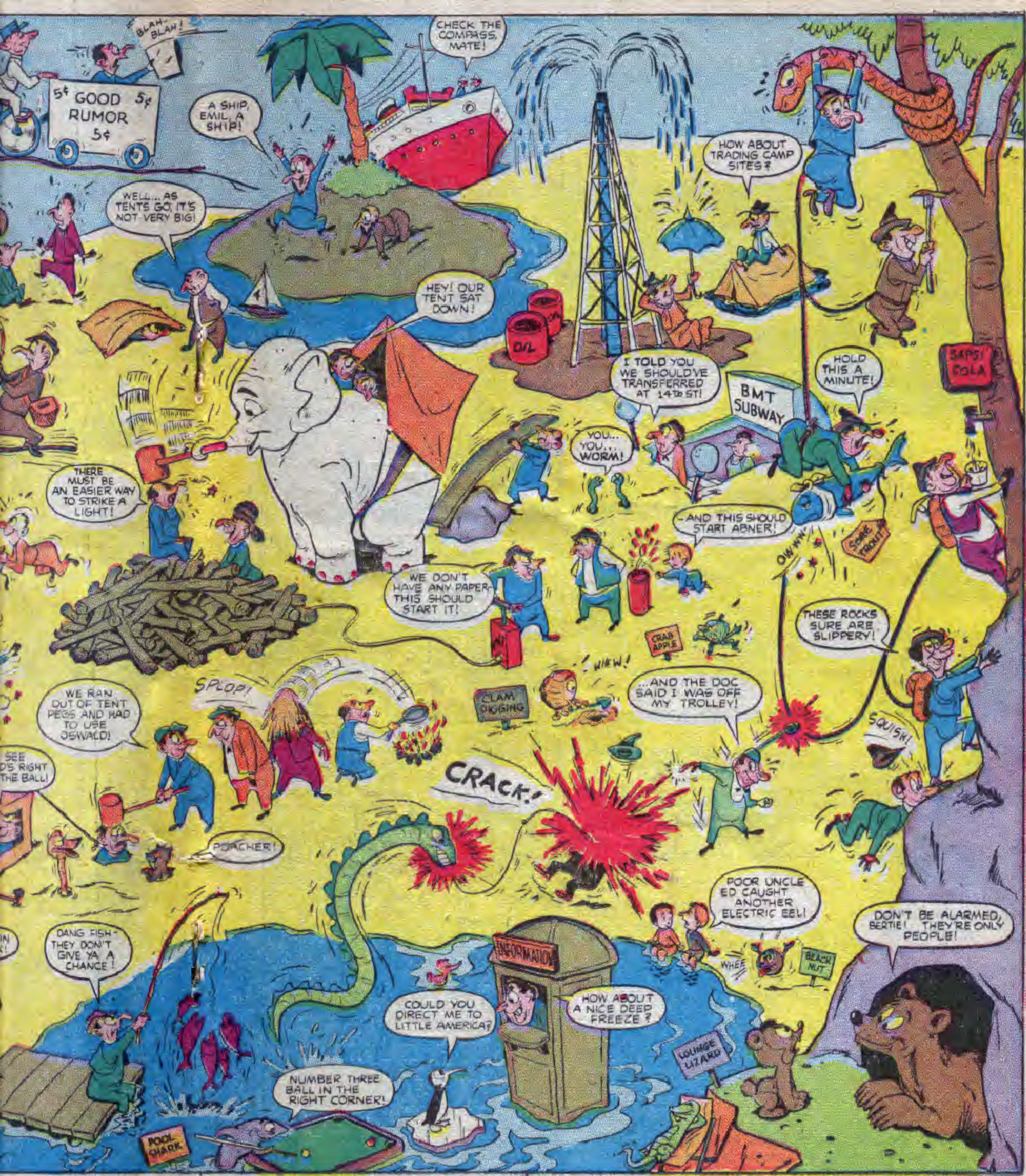
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NUMBER THREE
BALL IN THE
RIGHT CORNER!



POOL
SHARK





LOOK

THIS EASY WAY TEACHES PIANO Without Sheet Music, Scales or Exercises



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If you think you must spend weeks and weeks learning note reading and scales to play piano, get ready for a big surprise. I've just discovered an entirely new piano teaching device—a method that makes you play so easily it's amazing! Most people who have tried piano courses without success are thrilled with the results of my new system. My new MAGIC KEYBOARD fits right on your piano. It shows you as simple as A-B-C how to play ever-popular songs, waltzes, hymns, marches, western songs and dance numbers. It picks out all chords—you play with both right and left hands at once. No other method makes you play so quickly. No exercises—no scales—no reading page after page of puzzling instructions. And on this SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER you get complete playing instructions for 3 of America's favorite songs that you can play instantly. And the price?—so little it's amazing.

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To prove you too can play the piano without learning scales or taking lessons, I will send you the Magic Keyboard FREE. It costs you nothing. And Wait! Prompt action also enrolls you in SONGS-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB FREE and without obligation. AND MORE! You also get amazingly valuable PIANO SONG BOOK, 72 pages of 50 ever popular songs for right and left hand, waltzes, hymns, Western songs etc. complete with words. Truly here is TODAY'S BEST OFFER for folks who want to play piano fast!

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SONG
BOOK**

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Just fill in coupon below. When MAGIC KEYBOARD and 3 ever popular songs arrive deposit only \$1.49 plus C.O.D. postage on our guarantee if you are not delighted return songs and your money back. You keep MAGIC KEYBOARD as a gift for your trouble.

EXTRA for Prompt Action!

If you order NOW we will include at no additional cost 1 extra song as a reward for promptness. Dave Suttle, Pres., Songs-of-the-Month Club, Rm 00, 230 East Ohio Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.



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Dave Suttle, President
Songs-of-the-Month Club
Room 394D, 230 East Ohio Street, Chicago 11, Illinois

Please send me FREE MAGIC KEYBOARD with 3 of America's favorite songs plus 1 EXTRA GIFT SONG and 72-PAGE SONG BOOK for prompt action. Also enroll me as a member in your Club. On arrival of package, I will pay postman \$1.49 plus C.O.D. postage on understanding I can return songs for full refund in 10 days and keep MAGIC KEYBOARD for my trouble. If I continue (my choice), I am entitled to receive 3 new songs to play with my MAGIC KEYBOARD each month and I am to pay only \$1.49 plus C.O.D. postage on arrival. I can cancel membership any time I desire. As long as I continue I am entitled to all benefits, savings, dividends and special privileges of all members.

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Address _____

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**SONGS-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB ROOM 394D,
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HERE'S WHAT HUNDREDS WRITE
Says Mrs. L. B. Flat Rock, N. C. "I was playing all three songs almost within fifteen minutes." A California man, Mr. C. C., Soledad, Calif., "My friends are all amazed that I picked it up so fast since I never before so much as looked at a piece of music." Mr. C. B., Haverhill, Mass., says, "I have enjoyed your MAGIC KEYBOARD and have found it to be more practical than advertised."

THIS IS YOUR PAGE

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Dear Reader:

In every issue of BOY COMICS this page is devoted to your opinions, ideas and suggestions. Since the conception of BOY COMICS we have been guided by two ideals—first, the eradication of crime and second, to give credit to the fearless detectives and officers of the law who daily risk their lives that you and we may live in a more lawful society.

CHARLES BIRO and BOB WOOD, Editors

In school we have a club called "The Youthbuilders." Each term we discuss a different problem, and this term we are dealing with juvenile delinquency. One of the first steps we took was to advise everybody to read "Boy," "Daredevil," "Crime Does Not Pay," "Crime and Punishment" and "Black Diamond Western," all of which we found to be of great service in combatting delinquency. Keep up the good work.

Ira Wolinsky
35 Jackson Street
New York City

Some time ago, while I was sick, a friend of mine brought me an issue of "Boy," and I have been reading it ever since. I started up a club of five girls when I realized that, like myself, perhaps other people hadn't read "Boy" either. We pay dues, and with this money buy "Boy," "Daredevil," "Crime Does Not Pay," "Crime and Punishment" and "Black Diamond Western." We have almost every copy in our library so everyone can read them over and over.

Norma Haskin
1728 Farragut
Butte, Montana

Although schoolwork and many other things keep me busy, I always find time to read "Boy" comics and all the other comics published by Lev Gleason. They're really swell.

Lynn Stuart
Johnson Street
Utica, Illinois

All of your magazines, especially "Boy," are the fastest-selling magazines in this town. In fact, the newsstand dealers have placed a big order for the next issue. I wish you continued success in helping to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Procopio Riyas
Calamba, Laguna
Philippines

I read your comics, "Boy," "Daredevil," "Crime Does Not Pay," "Crime and Punishment" and "Black Diamond Western" as often as I can. The reason I read these magazines is because they seem to reason things out for you. These magazines prove that clean and honest living is the best thing for every American boy. Don't stop the printing of these comics.

Jerry Caval
Ottillie Orphan Home of New York
85-70 148th Street
Jamaica, New York

Thanks for your wonderful magazine. It makes excellent reading, in addition to teaching so many moral lessons. Mother says that it has helped to teach me patience.

Miss Jo Garcia
2019 Stuart Street
Tampa, Florida

Your magazine has won high esteem from my friends and me. "Boy" comics is superior in its field for teaching sportsmanship and fair play. If more people would read this wonderful magazine there would be less crime and more humane practices.

Carl Zeytoanan
40 Charles River Road
Watertown, Mass.

One of the boys who recently joined our Boy Scout troop told me that he joined because "Boy" comics had taught him the ideals of good sportsmanship, and he felt that the Scouts exemplified these ideals.

John Messia, Jr.
421 Warren St.
Roxbury, Mass.

"Boy" comics and the other Gleason-Biro-Wood publications rate tops with me, because they help to cooperate with the police and F.B.I. in trying to eliminate crime.

Alex Spears
3430 Wilmont
Columbia, S. C.

Please try to limit letters to about 50 words. All letters become the property of Lev Gleason Publications, Inc., and we reserve the right to edit same. Address all letters to Readers Page, BOY COMICS, 114 East 32nd Street, New York 16, N. Y.

FIRE YOUR OWN V-2 MODEL ROCKET

JET PROPULSION!

This rocket uses actual jet principles. Will help you to learn the secrets behind inter-planetary flights. Extra rocket charges come with every rocket. You can always obtain more, so that you can experiment again and again.

SOARS
OVER
200 FT.
IN THE
AIR!

COMPLETE
WITH SPECIAL
LAUNCHING
STAND, EXTRA
ROCKET CHARGES
AND FULL
INSTRUCTIONS
FOR OPERATION

\$2.95

A NEW THRILL!

There's a new thrill coming as you send a real rocket soaring up high into the sky. It zooms up from its launching stand, but is absolutely harmless.

Drops safely, cannot injure anyone, and you can fire them over and over, having fun or experimenting seriously.

For only \$2.95 your rocket comes equipped, ready to fly, with special launching stand, extra rocket charges and full instructions on how to make your rocket zoom over 200 feet into the sky.

SEND NO MONEY

When payment is sent with order, we pay postage. Or send no money and pay postman \$2.95 plus mailing costs. Just mail the handy order coupon below. Your rocket will be shipped to you immediately.

SEND NO MONEY! Rush This Coupon

EMPIRE MERCHANDISING CO., Dept. V2
63-E Central Avenue, Ossining, N. Y.

Gentlemen: Rush me the V-2 model rocket set at only \$2.95.

I enclose payment ☐ Send C.O.D. ☐

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EMPIRE MERCHANDISING CO., Dept. V2
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C.B.

Story by
**CHARLES
BIRO**







DO WE WANT PLANES CRASHING INTO THE HOMES OF INNOCENT CITIZENS?

MR. SANDROW! IN THE FIRST PLACE, EASTERN FARM IS SUFFICIENTLY ISOLATED SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DANGER OF PLANES FLYING LOW OVER TOWNSPEOPLE'S HOMES!

BY THE SAME TOKEN, THERE WOULD BE NO NOISE NUISANCE! WE'VE DONE A LOT OF TALKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS WE WOULD DO FOR OUR BOYS WHEN THEY GOT OUT OF THE ARMY! NOW WE'VE GOT A CHANCE TO PROVE WE MEANT IT!

HE'S RIGHT - I'VE HEARD THAT ACTUALLY, A SMALL AIRPLANE MAKES LESS NOISE THAN A MOTORCYCLE! WHO COULD OBJECT TO THAT?

THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE FOR PATRICK MARTIN BY HIS SISTER, SUSAN! PAT GAVE SEVEN OF THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE TO THE ARMY AS A FLYER! NOW WE CAN SHOW OUR GRATITUDE BY VOTING 'YES' ON HIS APPLICATION!

I HATE VOTING AGAINST SANDROW! HE'LL PROBABLY GET EVEN AT THE NEXT ELECTION BY GETTING HIS MACHINE TO VOTE AGAINST ME! BUT DONOVAN IS RIGHT! I'M VOTING 'YES'!

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ELECTION DAY ISN'T FAR OFF! STILL, MY SON WAS A G.I. - I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FACE HIM IF I VOTED AGAINST THIS, JUST TO SAVE MY JOB!

THOSE IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE LICENSE...

AYE!

AYE!

AYE!

WHEW! GET A LOAD OF SANDROW! HE'S FURIOUS! THE COUNCIL REALLY STOOD UP AGAINST HIM AT LAST!

THEY WERE RIGHT TO DO IT, BUT I PITY THEM ON ELECTION DAY! HE'LL HAVE THEIR JOBS FOR THIS!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU TWO! THE APPLICATION WAS APPROVED THREE TO ONE! LET ME WARN YOU, THOUGH... IF SANDROW CAN FIND ANY WAY TO STOP YOU, HE WILL!

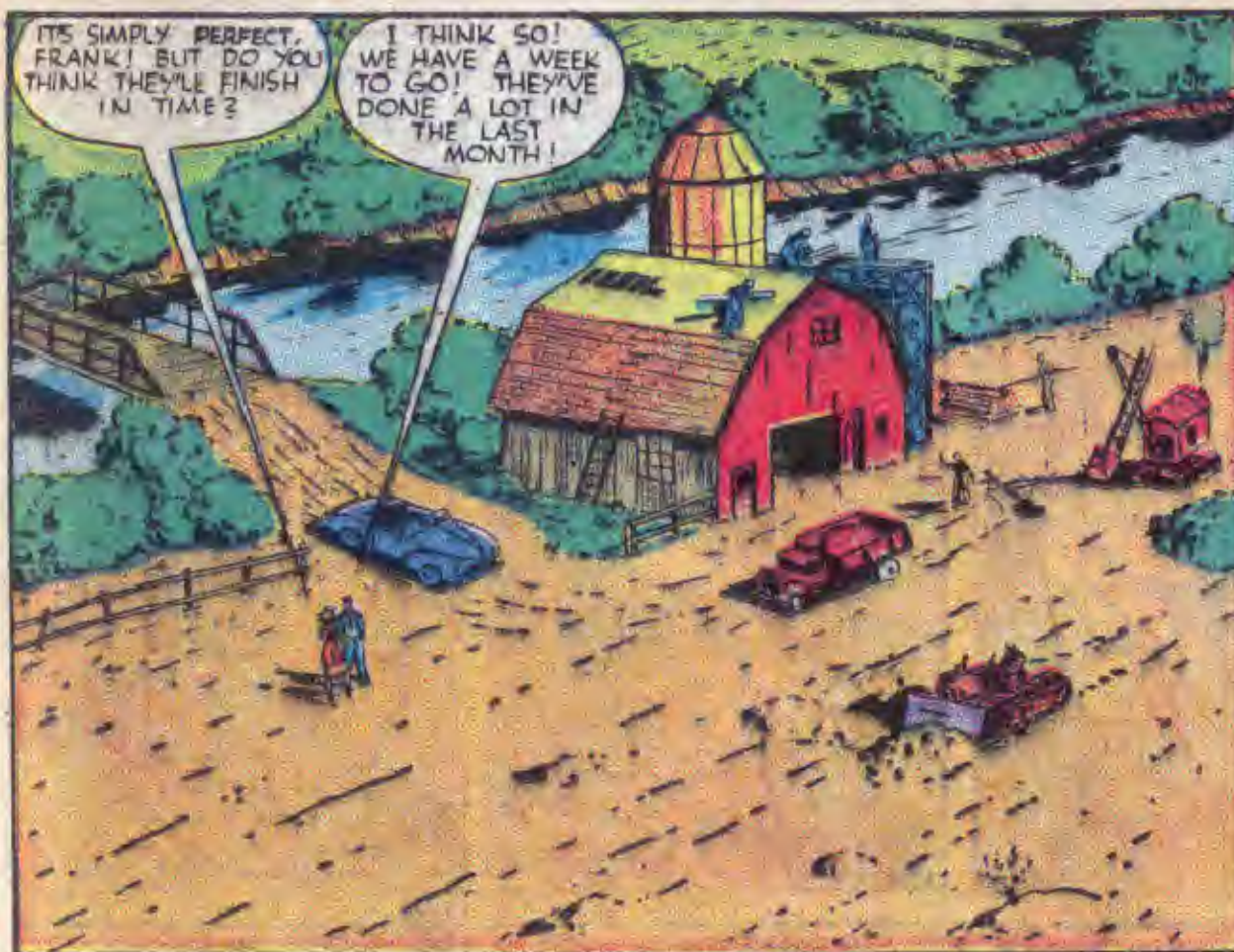
THANKS A MILLION, MR. DONOVAN! I KNOW YOU HELPED TO SWING THE DEAL!

I WAS GLAD TO DO IT, AND SO WERE THE OTHERS! WE SEE IT AS AN ASSET TO THE TOWN!

IT WILL BE, MR. DONOVAN! MY BROTHER INTENDS TO MAKE IT THE BEST AIRPORT IN THE STATE - AND HE CAN!

HERE'S THE DEED - ALL SIGNED AND SEALED! NOW I'LL GIVE THE CONTRACTOR THE GREEN LIGHT TO GO AHEAD ON THE WORK!

OH, I HOPE WE CAN GET IT ALL FINISHED BEFORE PAT GETS HERE!



IT'S SIMPLY PERFECT, FRANK! BUT DO YOU THINK THEY'LL FINISH IN TIME?

I THINK SO! WE HAVE A WEEK TO GO! THEY'VE DONE A LOT IN THE LAST MONTH!



I HAD A LETTER FROM PAT TODAY - ALL FULL OF HIS PLANS FOR THE AIRPORT! EVERY TIME HE MENTIONS ANY SPECIAL ANGLE, I CHECK TO SEE IF WE HAVE IT IN OUR PLANS!

HE'S GOING TO BE THE MOST SURPRISED GUY IN THE WORLD!



THE RIVER MAKES THIS AIRPORT PERFECT! IT CAN BE USED FOR BOTH AIR AND SEAPLANES! THAT WAS ONE OF THE POINTS PAT PARTICULARLY WANTED - IF HE COULD SWING IT! HE WRITES ABOUT IT CONSTANTLY!



FRANK! I HEAR A BAND PLAYING! WHAT CAN IT BE?

IT'S PROBABLY A POLITICAL PARADE... IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO ELECTION DAY!



YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

HOLY SMOKE! LOOK AT THOSE BANNERS!



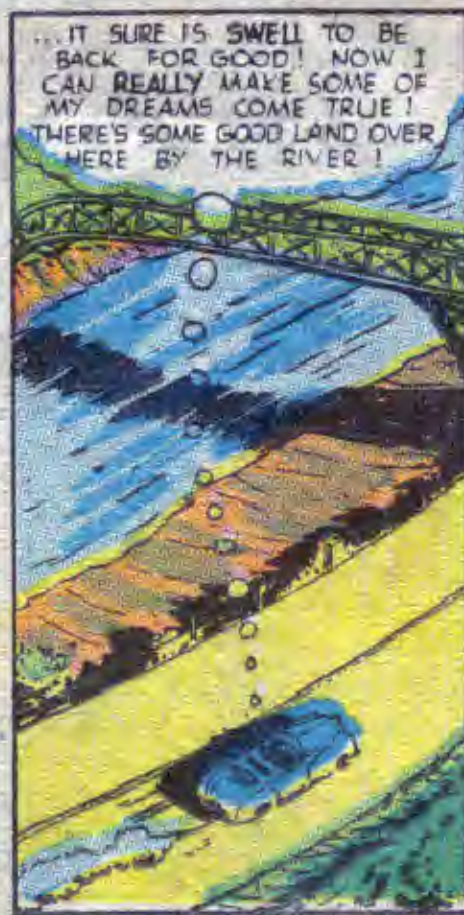
SANDROW FOR MAYOR? THAT'S NOT SO GOOD!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FRANK? YOU DON'T THINK HE COULD CLOSE THE AIRPORT, DO YOU?



COULD BE... AND HE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING, TOO! HE'S A CLEVER, UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICIAN! HE BUYS HIS VOTES WITH FAVORS, AND RUNS A POWERFUL POLITICAL MACHINE! I DON'T LIKE IT!

OH, DEAR. I DO HOPE HE'S NOT ELECTED! IT WOULD RUIN PAT'S CHANCES FOREVER!





HEY! HEY, YOU! WHO OWNS THIS FIELD?

HUH?... I DUNNO... I JUST WORK FOR MR. HARRIS, THE CONTRACTOR!

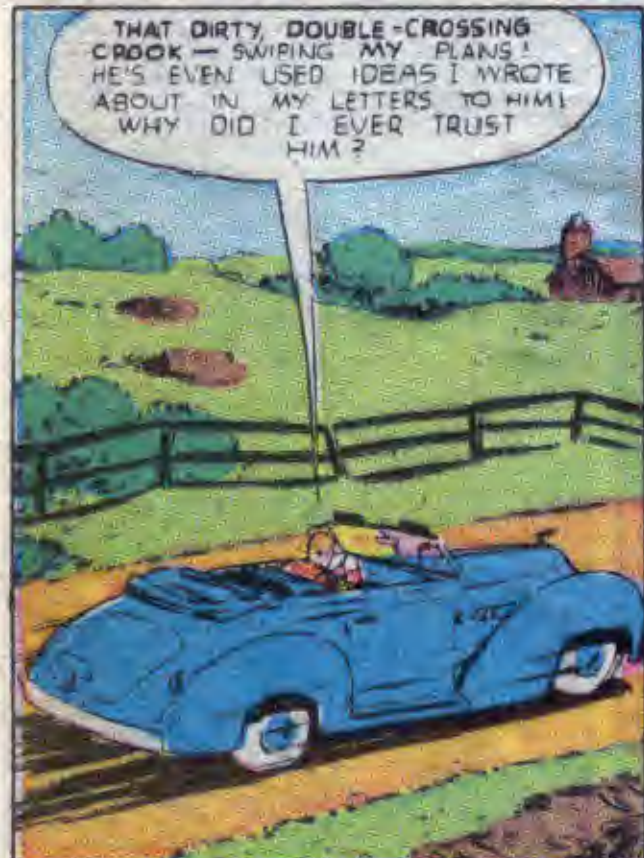


THINK! HASN'T MR. HARRIS MENTIONED THE NAME OF THE MAN HE'S DOING WORK FOR?

NOW, LET'S SEE... HE'S A YOUNG FELLOW... BEEN OUT HERE QUITE A LOT... MR. MAC... MR. MACDONALD... FRANK MACDONALD! THAT'S WHO IT IS!



FRANK MACDONALD! MY BEST FRIEND!! HOW COULD HE?



THAT DIRTY, DOUBLE-CROSSING CROOK - SWIPING MY PLANS! HE'S EVEN USED IDEAS I WROTE ABOUT IN MY LETTERS TO HIM! WHY DID I EVER TRUST HIM?



PAT! HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU! COME IN, BOY!

I CAME TO SEE FRANK, MRS. MACDONALD! WILL YOU TELL HIM I'M HERE?



OH... HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU! COME ON IN, PAT! I'LL CALL HIM... HE'S UPSTAIRS!

THANKS! I'LL WAIT OUT HERE FOR HIM!



IT'S PAT, FRANK... BUT HE'S ACTING SO PECULIAR! HE SEEMED UNFRIENDLY, AND INSISTED ON WAITING OUTSIDE! DID HE SUFFER FROM SOME SORT OF BATTLE NEUROSIS?

GOSH, I DON'T THINK SO! MAYBE YOU JUST IMAGINED IT!



PAT! PAT MARTIN!! YOU OLD SO-AND-SO! GOSH WELCOME HOME!

CUT THE ACT, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER! I JUST CAME TO PAY YOU OFF FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD PAL!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PAT? UGH!

Sock!





I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS... ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE HAS A FRACTURED SKULL! OH, PAT, GO TO THE POLICE AND GIVE YOURSELF UP! GO AND EXPLAIN!

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN!



QUICK MOTHER, GIVE ME MY MONEY! I'M GOING TO GET AWAY! THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO STAY HERE, NOW THAT FRANK HAS STOLEN ALL MY IDEAS FOR AN AIRPORT FOR HIMSELF! WHERE'S MY MONEY?



I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU NOW! WAIT-LET ME EXPLAIN! OH, NOW I'M BEGINNING TO SEE...

EXPLAIN IT IN A LETTER! I'LL WRITE AND GIVE YOU AN ADDRESS! RIGHT NOW, I'M CLEARING OUT BEFORE THE POLICE GRAB ME FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO!



PAT! PLEASE WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN! YOU'RE MAKING A DREADFUL MISTAKE!



IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, MR. LOOVER, THAT PAT SAW THE AIRPORT AND ASSUMED THAT FRANK HAD STOLEN HIS IDEAS AND BUILT IT FOR HIMSELF! THE WORST OF IT IS, I CAN'T REACH HIM!

DID HE SAY HE'D WRITE?



YES-HE DID, BUT ALL THIS IS UNLIKE PAT! HE'S NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO FACE THE MUSIC! I THINK IT'S JUST THAT HE'S STILL SO UPSET ABOUT THE AIRPORT THAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW SERIOUS FRANK'S CONDITION IS!

AS SOON AS YOU HEAR FROM HIM, LET ME KNOW, MRS. MARTIN!



I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU, C.B.! THAT WAS MRS. MARTIN ON THE PHONE! SHE JUST HAD A LETTER FROM PAT, AND HE GAVE HER A BOX NUMBER IN THE CITY TO WRITE TO. BOX 124, UPTOWN!

I'LL GO TO THE UPTOWN POST OFFICE, AND WATCH FOR HIM TO COME IN FOR IT!



THAT'S HIM, SQUEEKS! HE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PICTURE MRS. MARTIN GAVE US!



I'M FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, PAT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, FRANK!

MY FRIEND? THAT'S A LAUGH! OKAY, I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU PEACEFULLY! I KNEW I'D BE BOUND TO GET CAUGHT! ALL I DID WAS SOCK HIM ON THE JAW! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HIM SERIOUSLY!



YOU NEED TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT ON A LOT OF THINGS, PAT! FIRST OF ALL, THAT'S YOUR AIRPORT - NOT FRANK'S! HE AND YOUR SISTER GOT IT FIXED UP FOR YOU AS A SURPRISE! IT'S IN YOUR NAME AND WAS PAID FOR WITH YOUR MONEY!

IF YOU'RE ON THE LEVEL, THEN I'M THE WORLD'S GREATEST DOPE!



BUT IF HE DID IT FOR ME, WHY DIDN'T SOMEBODY TELL ME? WHY DIDN'T FRANK SAY SOMETHING?

IT WAS TO BE A SURPRISE! YOU NEVER GAVE FRANK A CHANCE TO SAY A WORD TO YOU, ACCORDING TO HIS MOTHER!



OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE! WHY DIDN'T I WAIT TO FIND OUT? ME AND MY BLASTED TEMPER! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW, PAT! FRANK IS IN A VERY CRITICAL CONDITION! THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH US!



YOU SEE, IF HE SHOULD DIE THE CHANCES AGAINST YOU WOULD BE

DIE! OH, NO! I KNEW HE WAS BADLY HURT, BUT NOT THAT HE MIGHT DIE! HE CAN'T DIE! HE MUSTN'T!



WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING - AND I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH ME! PUT ME IN JAIL... OR DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT - BUT FRANK MUSTN'T DIE!

I COULDN'T PUT YOU IN JAIL - I'M NOT A POLICEMAN, BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!



HIS CONDITION IS WORSE? THAT'S TOO BAD! ONLY FOUR HOURS TO LIVE? ... UNLESS ... YES, YES ... I UNDERSTAND!



FRANK'S GETTING WORSE! A NEW COMPLICATION! THE DOCTOR SAYS HE ONLY HAS FOUR HOURS TO LIVE, UNLESS THEY CAN GET DOCTOR WARD, THE FAMOUS BRAIN SPECIALIST, TO OPERATE!

WHY DON'T THEY GET HIM? I'LL PAY FOR IT! I'LL PAY ANYTHING!



IT'S NOT THAT EASY... DOCTOR WARD LIVES IN BRADFORD CITY! IT'S A SIX-HOUR TRIP BY CAR, OR FOUR HOURS BY TRAIN! HE'LL NEVER GET THERE IN TIME!



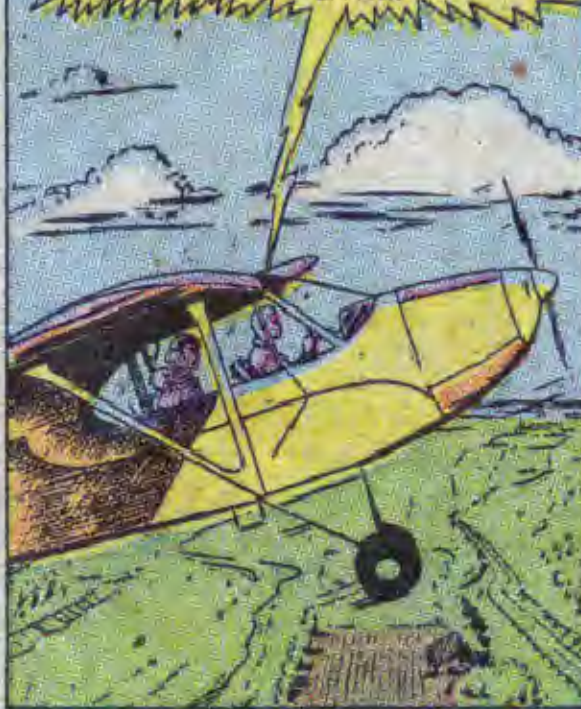
WE'RE FLYING OUT TO GET HIM! I'LL BRING HIM BACK! COME ON, WE CAN GET HOLD OF A PLANE AT CARDIFF!

SURE-I CAN RENT YOU A THREE-PASSENGER PLANE! THERE'S ONE ON THE FIELD NOW... ALL WARMED UP! YOU'D BETTER CHECK THE WEATHER!



GOOD! WE'LL TAKE IT! AND LET ME WORRY ABOUT THE WEATHER!

BRADFORD CITY AIRPORT... CEILING ZERO... HEAVY STORMS IN MOUNTAINS TO WEST... ADVISE ALL PILOTS TO AVOID ENTIRE AREA... EMERGENCY LANDINGS MAY BE MADE IN FENWAY, FIFTY MILES SOUTH OF BRADFORD CITY!



WE'RE HEADING INTO SOME ROUGH WEATHER, C.B. I WELL HAVE TO FLY RIGHT THROUGH THE STORM CENTER, IF WE HOPE TO GET TO BRADFORD CITY! ARE YOU GAME?



GO TO IT, PAT!



WOW! WHAT A STORM! THIS IS THE WORST I'VE EVER SEEN, PAT! AND IT'S AS BLACK AS THE ACE OF SPADES AHEAD!

I HOPE THE WINGS STAY ON! I'M USED TO THE HEAVIER PLANES THEY FLY IN THE ARMY! THEY CAN TAKE IT BETTER THAN THIS FEATHER-WEIGHT!



NO KIDDING ABOUT THAT "CEILING ZERO"! BRACE YOURSELF, C.B.- I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME HEDGE-HOPPING TO FIND THAT FIELD!

RIGHT!



YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE BEAM, PAT! THERE'S THE AIRPORT, DEAD AHEAD! NICE FLYING, FELLA!

MORE LUCK THAN I DESERVE, C.B.- ONLY DON'T CHEER TOO SOON... WE HAVEN'T LANDED YET!



WHEW! SOME RIDE! HOPE YOU FEEL FIT TO SPRINT TO THAT DOCTOR'S OFFICE!



ARE YOU GUYS CRAZY-FLYING IN WEATHER LIKE THIS?

LIFE AND DEATH EMERGENCY, PAL! CAN WE PHONE FOR A CAB? WE'RE IN A RUSH!

NC 3352



IS IT AN EMERGENCY? THE DOCTOR'S BUSY RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS STRICTLY AN EMERGENCY, MISS!



BACK YOUR STUFF, DOC! YOU'VE GOT TO FLY BACK WITH US TO HOPEWELL TO SAVE MY FRIEND'S LIFE!

HOLD ON, SON! NOT SO FAST! I CAN'T JUST RUSH OFF LIKE THAT! I HAVE PATIENTS TO SEE!



THE DOCTORS SAY YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN IN THE COUNTRY THAT CAN SAVE FRANK! THEY GAVE HIM FOUR HOURS... AND THAT WAS OVER AN HOUR AGO! PLEASE! IF HE DIES, IT WILL BE MY FAULT! PLEASE, DOCTOR—YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT!



YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE CRAZY! WE CAN'T FLY TO HOPEWELL IN THIS WEATHER! BESIDES, THERE'S NO AIRPORT THERE! WHERE WOULD WE LAND? IT WOULD BE SUICIDE!



I'LL GET YOU THERE! I SWEAR I WILL! I MANAGED TO GET HERE, DIDN'T I? AS FOR A FIELD—THERE IS ONE NOW—A NEW ONE! PHONE THE HOSPITAL, AND TELL THEM TO MEET US AT THE NEW AIRPORT IN THE FASTEST CAR THEY'VE GOT!



ALL RIGHT—YOU WIN! I'LL GO! BUT I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN! WE'LL PROBABLY BE KILLED! ONE OF YOU TELL MY NURSE TO PHONE AHEAD ABOUT THE CAR WHILE I GET READY!

I'VE ALREADY CALLED THEM!



HEY, YOU GUYS! DON'T DO IT! I TELL YOU IT'S SUICIDE! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT! I WON'T GIVE YOU CLEARANCE! YOU'LL LOSE YOUR LICENSE!

IT'S NO USE ARGUING WITH HIM! HE'S CRAZY!

IF I GOT IT DOWN IN THIS STUFF—I CAN GET IT UP!



WE'RE GOING OVER THE MOUNTAINS NOW, AREN'T WE? I HOPE THAT ALTIMETER OF YOURS IS CORRECT! I STILL SAY I'M A FOOL TO BE IN THIS PLANE WITH YOU!

DON'T WORRY—WE'LL MAKE IT! AND IF YOU SAVE FRANK, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO FLY!



NO, THANKS! SAY! WE MUST BE NEARLY THERE! HOW ARE WE GOING TO LOCATE THE FIELD?

WE'RE NOSING DOWN NOW...I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THE RIVER-IF I CAN FIND IT!



THERE'S A LANDMARK I KNOW- THAT BEND IN THE RIVER! WE'RE WITHIN A MILE OF THE FIELD!

HOW CAN YOU SEE IN THIS FOG? YOU MUST HAVE THE EYES OF AN EAGLE!



HOLD EVERYTHING! WE'RE GOING DOWN... I HAVE TO MAKE A POWER LANDING... CROSS YOUR FINGERS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN DOING ON THIS WHOLE TRIP?



HOW DID THEY EVER MAKE IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH FLYING!



THANK HEAVENS YOU GOT HERE, DR. WARD! YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE!

THE PATIENT IS READY, DOCTOR!

FINE! HOW IS HIS BLOOD PRESSURE?



EIGHTY-FIVE OVER ONE TWENTY-EIGHT!

THANK YOU! SCALPEL, PLEASE!



TWO HOURS! DO YOU THINK WE GOT HIM HERE IN TIME?

TAKE IT EASY, PAT! WORRYING YOURSELF SICK ISN'T GOING TO HELP HIM!



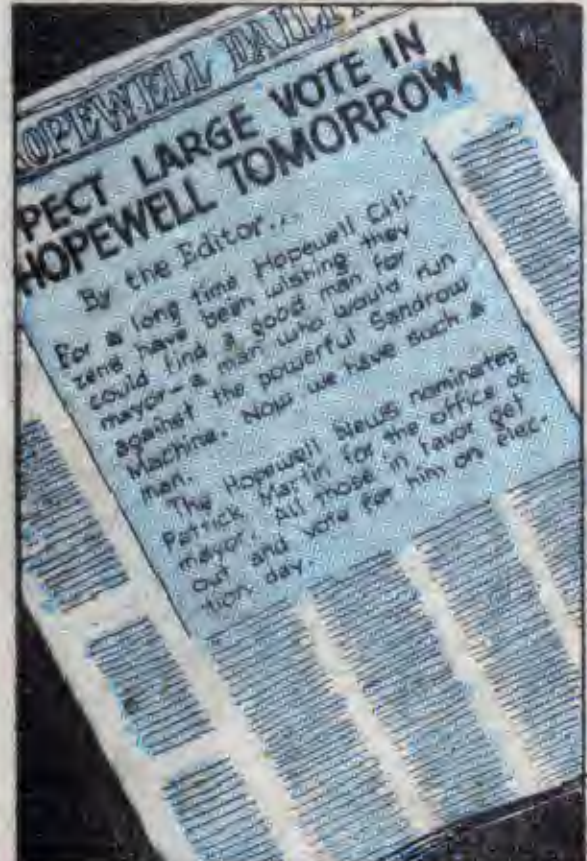
WELL, PAT, WE DID IT! HE'LL LIVE! THERE WERE TIMES I DIDN'T THINK SO... BUT I REMEMBERED HOW YOU WOULDN'T QUIT TRYING... AND I KEPT ON EVEN WHEN IT LOOKED HOPELESS! HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW WEEKS!!

THANK HEAVEN! AND THANK YOU, DR. WARD! YOU'RE TOPS!



DO YOU WANT ME TO FLY YOU BACK, DOCTOR?

NO, INDEED! I'VE HAD ENOUGH FLYING FOR A WHILE - BUT I MAY TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER TO TEACH ME HOW TO FLY SOMETIME!



STAMP PAGE

By **SIDNEY M. ELIAS**

Tannou Touva

IF YOU are a collector of odd shaped stamps such as diamonds and triangles, you most likely have some stamps of Tannou Touva in your collection, for during 1934-6, this country issued no less than 51 of these odd shaped stamps.

The name Tannou Touva is somewhat mysterious as well as quite difficult to locate on a map but, if you knew its more common name of Outer Mongolia, you would not have any trouble in finding it. Tannou Touva or Outer Mongolia lies between the southern border of Siberia, and north-west of Inner or Chinese Mongolia somewhere in the central portion of Asia.

Now that we have located Tannou Touva, let's find out about its inhabitants and what they do for a living. The country for the most part is a wilderness with a good portion of it unexplored. Large mountain ranges mostly covered by snow all year long, lock the entire country in on all four sides. The land within these mountains is a large plateau covered with lakes and rough country. The climate during the winter months is severe, averaging 12 degrees below zero and during the summer averages 66 degrees. In other words, the severe winters and its inaccessibility discourages people to settle in Tannou Touva. There are however hardy people living there but they are for the most part Mongolian tribes. These tribes live in tents or make-shift huts and earn their livelihood by raising sheep, ponies, and reindeer. They do not remain in one place long for whenever they need new grazing lands for their animals they just pack up and leave. In addition to Mongolian tribes, there are Turkic and Chinese and a mixture of all three.

In 1911, with the fall of the Chinese Empire, Outer Mongolia declared its independence. In 1924, a republic fashioned on the Soviet Russian style, was put into effect. Since then there has been a steady influx of Russian inhabitants.

Stamps of Tannou Touva are manufactured in Russia and most of them are sold to stamp collectors, as few Mongolians can either read or write.

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RAGS TO RICHES

by C.H. MOORE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS THE 17TH CHILD OF THE FRANKLIN FAMILY--HIS FIRST JOB WAS WORKING FOR HIS FATHER, A SOAP AND CANDLE MAKER--BEN NEXT WENT TO WORK FOR HIS BROTHER--A PRINTER--

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
BORN 1706--DIED 1790

STATESMAN • DIPLOMAT • INVENTOR • WRITER • PUBLISHER--FROM A POOR BOY TO A MAN OF GREAT RICHES, NOT ONLY IN MONEY, BUT ALSO IN SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION TO MANKIND! HE WROTE AND PUBLISHED "THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE", "POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC" AND "THE SATURDAY EVENING POST". HE WAS PRESIDENT OF PENNSYLVANIA--POSTMASTER GENERAL--HELPED TO WRITE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION--



BECAUSE OF HIS BROTHER'S DOMINATION AND HIS LACK OF FREEDOM, BEN RAN AWAY--IN PHILADELPHIA, AT THE AGE OF 17, HE GOT A JOB IN A PRINT SHOP AND, IN TWO YEARS, SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO OPEN HIS OWN PRINT SHOP, WHERE HE STARTED HIS OWN PAPER!



FRANKLIN'S NEWSPAPERS KEPT THE PUBLIC INFORMED WITH NEWS, POLITICS AND SOCIAL, HISTORIC AND SCIENTIFIC FACTS--AND HE INTRODUCED NEWSPAPER DELIVERY BY MAIL!



AMONG HIS INVENTIONS WERE THE HARMONICA--LIGHTNING ROD--FRANKLIN STOVE--BI-FOCAL GLASSES--DISCOVERED THE IDENTITY OF LIGHTNING WITH ELECTRICITY--ORGANIZED THE FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT--FIRST POST OFFICE SYSTEM--FIRST STREET CLEANING DEPARTMENT--INTRODUCED DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME--CIRCULATING LIBRARY--FOUNDED THE PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL--UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL!



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND WAS SENT TO FRANCE TO SOLICIT THE AID OF LOUIS XVI FOR AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE--HIS MISSION WAS A SUCCESS!

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DIED--AGE 84. YES! "RAGS TO RICHES" IS WELL APPLIED TO THIS GREAT AMERICAN WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH--EVEN HIS MONEY--WHICH HE WILLED TO HOSPITALS AND COLLEGES!

SCARECROW MEETS HARRIET

A LITTLE WISE GUYS' STORY

SCARECROW sat on his bunk, reading a much-thumbed copy of "The Rustler's Last Ride" as he ate an apple. The hot July sun streamed in on his back through an open window. Every few minutes he shifted himself lazily to turn a page.

"Hey, Scarecrow! Come on out!" Pee Wee, Curly, and Jock were sprawled under a tree outside. "Hey!" Pee Wee called. "Drop that book and come play kick-the-can. We need you so we can have two on each team!"

But Scarecrow was only dimly aware of their shouts, for the story held his whole interest. He bit deeply into his apple, his excitement mounting as he read on:

"The Brazos Kid headed his sorrel toward the herd, spotted a couple of good-looking heifers, and spurred the sorrel in their direction. 'Let's get those two, sweetheart,' he murmured. 'You know what to do.'"

"It was as if the sorrel had selected those two particular animals herself. She edged in between them and the herd, shifting nervously to keep them from returning to the slowly moving mass of cattle. As gracefully as a fencer, with slight direction from her rider, the sorrel headed the heifers up the valley toward the box canyon. Whenever either of them tried to buck and return to the herd, it would discover the sorrel blocking its path with a firmly planted foreleg. So the heifer would swerve back into line once more.

"The Brazos Kid nodded his head with delight. 'There isn't a cowhand in the country who wouldn't give his eye-teeth to have you, baby.'"

Suddenly Scarecrow felt a yank at his hair. "Hey!" he yelled, without looking up. "Stop that, fellers! Go away and let me read!"

There was no reply—then another pull at his hair.

"Stop bothering me!" He moved his head ever so slightly, out of reach of the open window, and returned to his reading.

"Boy!" he breathed. "Would I like to have a horse like *that*! How do you suppose they ever train them to be so smart?"

Then, as he turned the page, Scarecrow suddenly felt a blast of hot air on his neck. Without warning, a brown, hairy something reached over his shoulder, snatched the remains of the apple, and with one violent crunch, backed out of the window again!

"Yiiii-i-i-i!" Scarecrow yelped. In one leap he was half-way across the room, burrowing

down behind a chair. "Help! Hey, Wise Guys! Help!" he called, thoroughly frightened. "Something's after me!"

He rushed out the door, and the Wise Guys gaped in astonishment as he came tearing at them. "There's some sort of something behind the house!" he gasped. "It tried to *eat* me—honest, fellas! It had a long, hairy arm and—oh, it must be as big as an elephant! And it breathed fire! Maybe it's a dragon."

Jock sat up lazily. "Calm down, Scarecrow," he laughed. "Your imagination is running riot. Come on, fellers, let's go find this so-called dragon."

"You've been reading too many books," Pee Wee laughed, jumping to his feet. "I bet there isn't anything there at all. But let's look, anyway."

"Hey, wait a minute!" cried Scarecrow. "We've got to be careful, or we'll *all* get eaten up! Pee Wee, you and Curly go around on one side of the barn, and Jock and I will go around the other. And watch out! You don't know *what* may happen!"

The three other Wise Guys looked first at Scarecrow, still trembling all over, then at each other, and laughed. "Okay, Scarecrow," said Jock. "Whatever you say. Let's go. When I whistle, we'll all come out and surround it."

They split into pairs, and started around the barn, with Scarecrow hanging behind Jock, ready to run at a moment's notice. When they reached the far corner, Jock gave a low whistle, and all four ran out into the yard at the same time. Face to face, the Wise Guys looked at each other.

"Where's your dragon gone, Scarecrow?" Pee Wee laughed. "Boy! You sure have some imagination."

Curly slapped Scarecrow on the back. "Never mind, fella. We like you even if you . . . Hey! Look over there by the tree!"

The Wise Guys gaped. "It's a *horse*!" Jock chuckled. "That's what it is, a horse! I bet he'd be flattered if he knew what you'd been saying about him, Scarecrow. Come on—let's go catch him."

Scarecrow flopped to the ground in relief. "Whew!" he murmured. "Is *that* all it was?" He wiped his forehead. "You guys go catch him if you want to—I've had my fill of excitement for today."

Pee Wee, Jock, and Curly raced over to the horse, and tried to surround it. But the wily mare slipped away from them with ease. Again they

tried to reach her, and again she leaped nimbly aside and continued grazing. Jock made one final effort to seize her mane, but she broke away easily and ran off toward Scarecrow. Then, with what Scarecrow was sure was a horse laugh, she reached her head down in an attempt to grab his hair.

Pee Wee began to laugh. "He . . . he thinks that's . . . Ha! ha! . . . that's hay on your head, Scarecrow! Ha! ha! *That's* what he was trying to eat! Ho! ho!" Jock and Curly roared with laughter, as Scarecrow scrambled to his feet, fighting desperately to get his head away from the horse's mouth.

"Grab him, Scarecrow!" Jock shouted. "He seems to like you!" And Scarecrow, smiling weakly, seized the horse's mane. The animal stood still, thrusting its nose around Scarecrow's pockets in search of a bit of apple.

"Gee!" Scarecrow breathed. "*He does* like me!"

"Likes *you*? Likes your *hair*, you mean!" Pee Wee raced over toward the horse, but the mare edged around behind Scarecrow. "See!" said Scarecrow, now over his fright, and flattered by the horse's attentions. "It's *me* he likes!" He patted the mare awkwardly. Then, gaining confidence, exclaimed: "Come on over to this stump, fella, and let me mount you."

The horse seemed to understand. She followed Scarecrow to the stump, then stood still while Scarecrow clumsily climbed on her bare back. "Hang on, Scarecrow!" Pee Wee cried excitedly. "Ride 'em, cowboy! Gee, we've got a *real, live horse!*"

Scarecrow trotted the mare slowly around the field. She seemed to respond to his every touch as they zigzagged along, for Scarecrow was too busy hanging on to pay attention to where they were going. Suddenly she stopped, perked up her ears, and gently pawed the ground.

"Let's go!" cried Scarecrow as he gave a tentative dig to her sides. And go she did. So quickly that Scarecrow almost fell off. She raced out of the yard, her mane streaming into Scarecrow's eyes. Pee Wee, Curly and Jock tore after her, shouting as they ran.

"Hey, stop! Wait up for us! Scarecrow—come back!" screamed Pee Wee.

"I can't!" Scarecrow gasped. "I can't stop her!" The three boys saw the mare disappear around the corner, with Scarecrow's hands clinging tightly to her mane. They ran as fast as they could, as the horse and Scarecrow drew out of sight.

"Omigosh!" panted Pee Wee. "I can't run much farther. Where's that horse going? . . . Hey! Do you see what I see? Down by the drug-store—Cattle! Whoopee! What has the West got that we haven't got! It's a stampede!"

Jock caught up and stood beside him. "Gee! Where'd they come from?" As Pee Wee spurted ahead again, he shouted: "Look at Scarecrow! The horse is going after the cattle! Scarecrow! Get out of there!"

But Scarecrow scarcely heard, for the horse was slowly dancing around the excited herd of cattle, weaving in and about as though she had personal charge of them. Scarecrow decided to

jump for firm ground, then thought better of it as he surveyed the excited cattle.

"Get me out of here!" he shouted. But the Wise Guys were helpless. They were driven back by the frantic steers every time they tried to get near Scarecrow and his mount.

Suddenly, three cowhands appeared, galloping down the street. The crowd that had collected to watch the cattle now retreated to safety, watching with astonished eyes this scene out of a western movie that had come to life in their quiet town. Within minutes the cowhands had cornered the cattle in a fenced-in parking lot, and Scarecrow's horse scittered about, then abruptly stopped. This was Scarecrow's chance—he dropped to the ground, with shaking knees.

"Whew!" he panted. "I think . . . I'm all here. Golly, what a ride!" One of the cowboys rode over to him just as the Wise Guys came rushing up. "Well, young fella, you sure may not be much on style, but I'll have to admit that you can stick to a horse," the cowboy drawled.

"Where did *you* come from?" demanded Pee Wee. "And the others—and all these cattle! What's going on, anyway? You'd think this was Abilene or Cheyenne or something!"

The cowboy chuckled. "I'll bet it's been a long time since this town had so much excitement." He shifted in his saddle. "We're from the Frontier Days Rodeo. We just rolled into town this morning, and right after that a whole *carload* of steers that we use in the show got loose. Then some ponies got away, but we rounded them up right away—that is, all except Harriet here. She was too quick for—Hey! She's trying to nibble your hair, kid!" The cowboy reached for the mare's mane as Scarecrow scrambled away.

"That's all right, Mister!" Scarecrow grinned. "I'm getting sort of used to it by now. Well, Harriet," he said, rubbing her nose, "you're welcome to all of my hair you want, after that ride you gave me. But I think you'd rather have some hay."

"We'd better herd these steers back where they belong," said the cowboy. "So long, kids! And thanks for your help. Take these passes to the rodeo tonight—after the show you gave us, you certainly ought to be able to see *our* show for *nothing!*"

"Gee, thanks!" the Wise Guys chorused. "Thanks a lot!" The cowboy waved as he joined his friends and started to herd the cattle down the street. "We'll see you tonight!" he called.

Back at the house Scarecrow chucked his copy of "The Rustler's Last Ride" into the waste basket. "Boy," he declared, "that's enough of that kind of stuff for me. Besides, there's nothing in it that I don't know already."

The Wise Guys were at the rodeo early, with Scarecrow in a well-cushioned seat of honor. The show was a great hit, and every time the Wise Guys saw Harriet they would yell: "Hey, Harriet! Here's Haytop with a headful of food for you!" And if the audience didn't understand the laughter, they thought it was very funny when the brown mare made a bare-toothed snatch at the tow-headed boy in the box down front.

THE END

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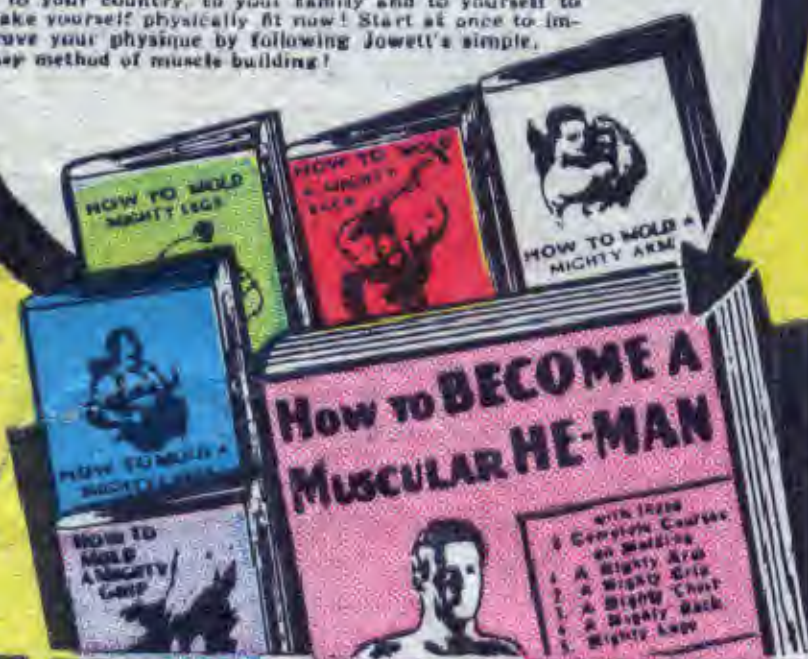


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